installed at the National Vocational Training Institute (Women's wing);

(c) whether it is a fact that diplomas will not be awarded to the trainees at the end of the course as no practical work has been covered;

(d) if so, wheher any responsibility has been fixed in this regard; and

(e) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The course "Data Preparation Assistant" which has been started at the National Vocational Training Institute for Women, New Delhi does not need an exclusive computer. The off-line terminals needed for imparting the training have been installed. The limited exposure to the computer needed for operating the simple programme prepared by the trainees, has been provided by taking the trainees to other computer installations.

(c) Since the required practical training has been provided to the trainees, the question of not awarding the certificates to the successful trainees at the end of the course does not arise. As envisaged under the scheme, arrangements are being made for providing 6 months on the job training in computer installations after the completition of six months of institutional training.

(d) and (e) In view of the above, the question of fixing the responsibility and taking further action does not arise.

Model Law on Consumer Protection

1593. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently framed a Model Law on Consumer Protection for adoption by all the States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof; and

(c) by when it is to be given effect to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The draft model law on consumer protection to be adopted by the States provides for setting up a Consumer Protection Council, Directorate of Consumers' Affairs and a Consumer Dispute Redressal Forum. The objectives of the proposed measures is to protect and promote consumer interest and provide for a forum for speedy and inexpensive redressal of grievances of consumers. The Consumer Protection Council shall promote and protect the rights of the consumer such as right to safety, right to be informed, right to choose, right to be heard and right to seek redressal against unscrupulous exploitation of consumers by some manufacturers/traders. The Council will undertake programmes for providing information and education to consumers and development of consumer protection movement. The Directorate of Consumer Affairs will be an executive arm to receive consumers' complaints and to act on them. The Consumer Dispute Redressal Forum will be a quasi-judicial machinery for speedy and inexpensive settlement of consumer disputes.

(c) The law will be applied after completing the legislative process.

Price tagging of goods

1594. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that customers are often cheated by the shopkeepers in two ways, firstly the goods are sold in loose form and not in packages and secondly there is no price tag on the goods put on sale for the benefit of the prospective buyers

(b) whether Government are also aware that even the items which are put on 'grand sale' do not carry the price tags indicating the original prices and price cut on these articles and such sales benefit only the shopkeepers; and

(c) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken so as to make price tagging compulsory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 as well as the Standards of Weights & Measures Act, 1976 do not prohibit the traders to sell essential commodities in loose form. However, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 in exercise of the powers delegated, the States/Union Territories have issued Price Display Orders in respect of Essential Commodities specified in their respective Orders. Violation of the Price Display Orders invite stringent penal provisions under the Essential Commodities Act. If the commodities are sold in packages, in terms of provisions of Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977, it is mandatory for each manufacturer to indicate on such packaged commodities its identity, net contents, date of packing, name of manufacture/packer and the sale price which is intended to protect the consumer from over-charging. Violation of the Packaged Commodities Rules, 1977 invites penal provisions. There is no provision under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to direct any trader who puts up articles on 'grand sale' to attach price tags specifying the original price and the sale price. The Central Government has been advising the States/Union Territories from time to time for vigorous implementation of the Price Display Orders. Since the States/Union Territories are enforcing price display orders, the question of making price tagging compulsory does not arise.

Evasion of excise duty by golden Tobacco Company

1595. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Golden Tobacco Company has been found evading huge excise duty by not printing the prices of cigarettes manufactured by them;

(b) if so, what is the estimated amount of excise duty evaded by the company during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) whether any action is being taken by Government for the recovery of the evaded excise duty, and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Evasion of excise duty by voltas Ltd.

1596. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in the "Times of India" of the 18th Feburary, 1986 to the effect that a multinational company, Voltas Limited has been found to have evaded excise duty to the tune of Rs. 3 crores;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government against the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A large number of incriminating documents have been seized from the office premises of the company from which it appears that the company has evaded central excise duty of a substantial amount. The document, indicated complicity on the part of several senior officials of the Company in the matter of duty evasion and they were arrested. The prosecution complaint against the Company and the officers is being field in the court shortly.